

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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P 041628Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5373

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO DE TELEGRAAF
PETITION RE KLM

REF: THE HAGUE 1138

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT
TO BE GIVEN MARCH 5 AT THE PRESENTATION REPORTED IN
REFTEL:
2. BEGIN QUOTE: IN ACCEPTING THESE PETITIONS IN THE
SAME FRIENDLY SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY ARE OFFERED, I HAVE A BRIEF
STATEMENT WHICH I WOULD ASK YOU TO PUBLISH IN RESPONSE.
3. FIRST: SINCE THE CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN
LAST OCTOBER THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN KLM'S PUB-
LISHED SCHEDULES AND ONLY A 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN
SCHEDULED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES. PAN AMERICAN,
HOWEVER, HAS VOLUNTARILY CUT ITS SCHEDULE IN HALF.
4. SECOND: AS SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS MADE CLEAR,
THE UNITED STATES EXPECTS THIS MATTER TO BE AMICABLY
RESOLVED WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS
THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE
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UNITED STATES.

5. THIRD: IN MATTER SUCH AS THIS, WHILE THE US IS MINDFUL OF PUBLIC OPINION, IT DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE COMPETENT MINISTERS OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT- IN THIS CASE FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WESTERTERP-BOTH OF WHOM, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE EXCELLENT NEGOTIATORS, JUDGING FROM THE RESULTS TO DATE. ANY NEW AGREEMENT THAT IS REACHED MUST HAVE THEIR APPROVAL.

6. FOURTH: THE BASIC US OBJECTIVE IN OUR PRESENT CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DUTCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN CARRIERS IS TO RATIONALIZE TRANSATLANTIC AIR SERVICE WHICH PRESENTLY HAS ENORMOUS OVERCAPACITY. THIS OVERCAPACITY IS BOTH WASTEFUL FROM THE ENERGY POINT OF VIEW AND ECONOMICALLY UNSOUND FOR ALL AIRLINES-LKM INCLUDED. TO ILLUSTRATE: LAST SUNDAY'S KLM FLIGHT NO. 612 FROM CHICAGO TO AMSTERDAM CARRIED ONLY 28 PASSENGERS ON BOARD A DC-10 PLANE THAT HAS SEATS FOR 249.

7. TO HAVE SO MANY EMPTY SEATS FLYING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST. TO MINIMIZE SUCH DISASTROUS LOAD FACTORS IS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS-AND IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST. GOULD

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